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Colby backs intelligence safeguards

Washington (AP)—The director of the Central Intelligence Agency says stronger protection is needed to safeguard intelligence secrets.

William E. Colby, in a copyrighted interview published yesterday in *U.S. News & World Report*, said he has recommended legislation to help protect such information.

"There are criminal penalties for people who reveal income tax returns or census returns or even cotton statistics. But there are no similar penalties for persons who reveal the name of an intelligence officer or agent or an intelligence secret, unless they give it to a foreigner or intend to injure the United States," he said.

"I think it's just plain wrong for us not to protect our secrets better."

Mr. Colby said recent publicity about secret CIA operations has raised questions among foreign friends about "the degree to which we can keep secrets."

Mr. Colby said that, while this may hurt the operation, he likes the way American society runs.

Open as possible

The agency, he said, is as open as possible, briefing newsmen and providing public information and assessments whenever possible.

"I think America gains a great deal of strength from this, even though it's a big change from traditional intelligence secrecy," he said.

Questioned about the Watergate scandal, Mr. Colby said the agency did two things wrong—providing paraphernalia for E. Howard Hunt, Jr., convicted Watergate burglar, and providing the psychological profile of Daniel Ellsberg, the man who leaked the Pentagon papers.

But he said steps have been taken to prevent any future misuse of the CIA, with employees instructed to report any such attempts directly to him.

"If anybody really tried to misuse the CIA in the future, he said, 'I think the organization would explode from inside. It really would. And that's good, because it's the best protection we have against this kind of problem.'"

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